

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,451	TSUCHIDA, TAKESHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marvin P. Crenshaw	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/01/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Williamson on December 20, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 1, after "in" delete "that" and enter - - which - -.

In claim 1, line 17, after "means", delete "is forming" and enter - - forms - -.

In claim 1, line 19, after "thereafter", delete "transporting" and enter - - transports - -.

In claim 3, line 2, after "claim", delete "1" and enter - - 2 - -.

In claim 6, line 1, after "in", delete "that" and enter - - which - -.

In claim 6, line 5, after "on", delete "an" and enter - - a - -.

In claim 6, line 12, after "are", delete "forming" and enter - - form - -.

In claim 6, line 14, after "thereafter", delete "transporting" and enter - - transports - -.

In claim 6, line 21, after "passes", delete " ; " and enter - - ,and - -.

In claim 6, line 23, after "rollers", delete " ; " and enter - - , - -.

In claim 7, line 2, after "member", enter - - is - -.

The Abstract has been deleted and the new abstract is:

An image forming apparatus in that a sheet having an image formed on a first side thereof by an image forming portion is again transported to the image forming portion so that an image may be formed on an opposite or second side of the sheet, the image forming apparatus including a sheet feeding portion, a re-transport path, a pair of registration rollers provided upstream of the image forming portion, and a loop forming space provided upstream of the pair of registration rollers so as to form the loop, wherein an entrance to the loop forming space for the sheet having passed along the re-transport path is formed downstream of an entrance to the loop forming space for the sheet fed from the sheet feeding portion.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the total combination as claimed including a loop forming space provided upstream of said registration means so as to form the loop, wherein an entrance to said loop forming space for the sheet having passed along said re-transport path is formed downstream of an entrance to said loop forming space for the sheet fed from said sheet feeding portion.

With respect to claim 6, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the total combination as claimed including an a loop forming space provided upstream of registration rollers wherein an entrance of the re-transport path to the loop forming

space is formed downstream of an entrance of the entry route to the loop forming space.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marvin P. Crenshaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-2158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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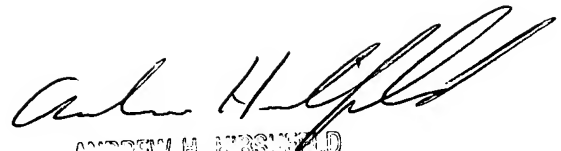
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MPC

December 20, 2004



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